

tax has been shared with them. Those taxes never belonged to the provinces or the dominion.

I have visited the homes of these people, and I know that the result of the present unfair, unjust system is that hundreds of municipalities are in a bad condition to-day. I see the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Hanson) in his seat. May I say to him that I have before me reports from the great province of British Columbia, and I can show him where, from his province, east to the Atlantic seaboard, hundreds of municipalities are bankrupt to-day. They cannot pay their fixed or maintenance charges. The municipalities have not their income tax moneys, which formerly supplied them with funds to build municipal institutions, schools and hospitals, to improve their parks, and all that sort of thing. Since the income tax has been taken away, the municipal public works have been starving. They have no moneys to pay for direct relief work. In the federal program of relief works voted here there was no equality of treatment. There have been some relief works in the other provinces, of which Ontario got little or nothing, because favouritism was shown. Some municipalities got court houses—I have Three Rivers in mind. Something was done for Winnipeg, and in Montreal botanical gardens were constructed. I am not complaining about that, because apparently they had enough pull to get the money from the government. But I ask that there should be some equality of privilege shown in the same way to the municipalities of Ontario which got little or nothing.

Some time ago I pointed out what Italy is doing in matters of relief for her unemployed. She is building public works and municipal institutions of all kinds, sufficient for the next forty years. She is building schools, hospitals, court houses and public buildings of all kinds, to take care of relief works, with the result that unemployment in Italy is at a very low ebb.

Some years ago, supported by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth), who is now leader of one of the groups in the house, I asked the government of that day if it was prepared to give a third of the cost of unemployment relief, in conjunction with municipal and provincial authorities. The then Minister of Labour, Mr. Heenan, replied, "The answer is No." He stated that unemployment relief, and matters respecting unemployment generally, and social services, under the British North America Act were matters for the municipalities and the provinces.

The government which has brought many of these people into the country, under the British North America Act has jurisdiction over trade and commerce and immigration. It has control of banks and banking, bills of exchange and notes. It has almost unlimited powers of taxation to solve its problems. The provinces, like the dominion, have made a raid on the municipalities and taken income and business taxes. They have taken away from the municipalities those moneys in order to balance the provincial budgets. The result is that they balance their budgets at the expense of the municipalities, but the cities and towns are in bad condition, and the condition of real estate is deplorable.

The result is that the outlook has been destroyed. The people are becoming, to a great extent, proletarian. In the early days in Canada every one owned property. Most industrial workers owned their own homes. Some of them had small stores or market gardens. They may have kept a cow, or a few cattle. We have been slow to see how the industrial workers have lost all that. To-day they do not own property, and to a great extent are becoming proletarian. Conditions are not as they were in the days of Macdonald and Laurier, which I described a moment ago. I do not know what will become of the people of Canada, if these conditions continue. The plight of the industrial workers is just as bad as that of the people in the prairie provinces who have suffered from drought, a people who have the admiration of all people in the dominion. I hope every help will be given them, but I must say at the same time that the plight of the industrial worker is just as bad, and he has had no help by federal legislation, like the farmers and fishermen. Fancy all that, in a land like Canada, which has plenty of food and clothing.

Mr. HANSON: May I ask a question?

Mr. CHURCH: Now the government seeks to evade its responsibility by appointing commissions and reading figures. Let me read a few figures, and point out that we shall never be able to give vouchers by reading trade reports or commission reports. The burden which is unloaded on the large cities and towns threatens the existence of municipal institutions in Canada.

Mr. HANSON: May I ask a question?

Mr. CHURCH: The government now gives grudgingly. Why do they not tell the people in Toronto: "We cannot give you an increase in relief; we cannot give you any food as we are not liable for it?" Why